

## BOOK NOTICE

POTTER, C.S., J.I. COHEN, and D. JANCZEWSKI (Eds.). 1993. **Perspectives on Biodiversity: Case Studies of Genetic Resource Conservation and Development.** (ISBN 0-87168-512-4, pbk) American Association for the Advancement of Science, Washington, DC 245pp.

From the prologue, by Ehrlich and Wilson to the many case studies covering such subjects as agroecosystems, fisheries and wildlife, managed forest ecosystems and conservation and regional development, this volume is full of literature reviews, republication of previously published key works, and original, site-specific research.

The book is divided into two parts: Themes in species and genetic resource conservation, and case studies of biodiversity conservation in natural habitats. The first section consists of four papers, which include: tactics and conflicts in preserving genetic resources (Soule), theoretical concerns regarding detection of congruent phylogenetic patterns among radiating lineages, and thus, detection of centers of evolutionary radiation (Erwin), balance of species preservation vs. economic considerations (Morowitz), and finally, biological and socioeconomic factors in conservation of crops and flora (Williams). The second section consists of purely case studies, which deal with every level from the local farmer (Altieria & Montecinos), to conservation of specific crops (e.g., Wilkes, on maize), habitats (e.g. Twilley et al., on mangroves), managed ecosystems (Hartshorn & Pariona on Peru, Padoch & Peters, on forest gardens in West Kalimantan, and Wilcox & Olson) on Pacific forests of the Pacific Northwest.

I was somewhat disappointed that conservation of such pivotal groups as birds, bats, reptiles, and marine mammals, was totally ignored in this volume. It is, nonetheless, useful, the binding is well-done and the reproduction clear. There are several critical papers which will be fodder for citations in our grant proposals, and I anticipate more soon.

In summary, I think every organismic biologist should have access to this book as a model for preservation of case studies, and a source of background reading material.—*John Pipoly III.*